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Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

for 1959

No. 2 AREA

DEVON



Medical Officer of Health—Dr. R. C. MacLeod

Public Health Inspectors Surveyors

Axminster Rural	... L. H. White	F. J. Smith
Honiton Borough	... R. B. Bailey	R. B. Bailey
Honiton Rural	... F. J. Baxfield	F. J. Baxfield
Ottery St. Mary Urban	C. W. Glover	C. W. Glover
Seaton	... P. R. Bradley	P. R. Bradley

Annual Report

for No. 2 Area for 1959

comprising :—

AXMINSTER RURAL, HONITON BOROUGH, HONITON RURAL,

OTTERY ST. MARY URBAN AND SEATON URBAN.

R. C. MACLEOD, *Medical Officer of Health.*

This is the third Annual Report I have presented, but the first during which I have been in office for the full year. I have continued to increase my knowledge of the area and in this report I shall comment not only on services provided by the District Councils, but on services provided by the County Council. As I said in my last report, no matter which Authority is responsible for a service concerned with the health of the people of the area, that service should in some measure be described in a report on health in the area.

Infectious Disease.

The most notable items in the figures for 1959 are the halving of the number of cases of measles and the considerable rise in the number of cases of pneumonia. This latter rise would appear to have occurred as a consequence of the influenza outbreak during the year. The case of typhoid was one where the infection had been contracted abroad.

			Ottery St.					
			Axminster Rural	Honiton Borough	Honiton Rural	Mary Urban	Seaton Urban	Total
Scarlet Fever	...	...	4	0	4	7	3	18
Whooping Cough		...	3	21	19	11	0	54
Poliomyelitis	...	...	0	0	0	0	0	0
Measles	...	...	103	179	126	12	16	436
Diphtheria	...	...	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pneumonia	...	...	15	32	32	3	0	82
Typhoid	...	...	1	0	0	0	0	1
Erysipelas	...	...	0	1	1	0	0	2
Meningococcal Infection			0	0	0	0	0	0
Food Poisoning	...	...	0	0	0	0	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	...		0	0	0	0	0	0
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)			5	0	1	0	0	6
Tuberculosis (Non-respiratory)			2	0	0	0	0	2
Dysentery	...	...	1	0	0	0	0	1
Ophthalmia-Neonatorum			1	0	0	0	0	1
Encephalitis	...	...	0	0	1	0	0	1
Mumps Meningitis	...		0	0	0	1	0	1
			135	233	184	34	19	605

Diphtheria.

Once again no cases have been reported during the year. It is essential, however, that immunisation against this disease should continue and all parents should ensure that their children are immunised.

Food Poisoning.

Six cases of food poisoning were notified but none were confirmed.

Poliomyelitis.

No cases of poliomyelitis occurred during the year. There was one suspected case in the Ottery district but it did not turn out to be one of poliomyelitis.

Tuberculosis.

There was a decrease in the number of cases notified during the year. It should not be expected that the number will reduce to zero shortly. A small number of cases should be expected each year for some years yet.

Cancer.

The number of deaths from Cancer was practically the same as last year and the figure for cancer of the lungs was exactly the same as last year.

Lungs							All types of cancer including lungs						
(1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959)	(1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959)
Axminster Rural. Population 14,080—													
5	3	1	4	5	9	8	28	23	31	22	36	36	32
Honiton Borough. Population 3,930—													
4	2	2	2	0	2	2	19	8	12	6	13	11	12
Honiton Rural. Population 6,960—													
1	2	1	3	1	1	1	8	9	10	17	9	17	17
Ottery St. Mary Urban. Population 4,200—													
N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	1	2	2	10	15	11	7	3	16	12
Seaton Urban. Population 2,960—													
1	0	2	2	1	1	2	6	10	9	9	8	7	16
11	7	6	11	8	15	15	71	65	73	61	69	87	89

Food Hygiene.

Many visits to food handling establishments were made by the Public Health Inspectors and the Medical Officer of Health during the year and once again an improvement in general conditions is reported. Such visits must be continued regularly if any advance, or even the maintenance of present standards is to be ensured.

Immunisation.

The system whereby with the co-operation of the County Medical Department, immunisation figures for the six districts in my area can be compiled separately from those of the County, as a whole, has not yet been running for a full year. Consequently, I cannot give the East Devon figures for 1959. The number of immunisations against Diphtheria and Whooping Cough has not altered much. The number of infants vaccinated against small-pox continues low at about a quarter of those under one year. The proportion of children inoculated against Poliomyelitis is now high, and in a year or two this should materially affect the number of cases of Poliomyelitis occurring.

I am now responsible for the giving of B.C.G. inoculations against Tuberculosis to children of the appropriate age-group in all the Secondary schools in the six districts. Under this scheme, B.C.G. may be given to all schoolchildren of 13 years of age and upwards.

Mental Health.

The District Councils are not responsible for the supervision of Mental Health, this being a County Council duty. However, when the Mental Health Bill comes into operation, the County Council will have to expand its Mental Health services and the work of the District Councils' health staffs will come more in touch with the County Mental Health Section. It seems likely, therefore, that the District Medical Officer of Health will have to devote more time to this subject. As I said in my last report, there is no doubt that much can be done locally through voluntary effort, and voluntary bodies which tackle any problem in the ordinary sickness field are in effect also doing Mental Health work. Obviously, until the effects of the Mental Health Bill become clearer, no precise views on the changes likely to take place in Mental Health Work in the County districts can be given.

National Assistance Act, 1948—Section 47.

Only one person was removed under this Section of the Act during the year. The case was a very difficult one as the person concerned was involved with the Police on a motoring charge and had been under the care of a Mental Hospital. The Health Department did what it could under these circumstances and the man was re-admitted to the Mental Hospital.

Welfare of Old People.

As the proportion of elderly people in the population increases it has become obvious that more attention must be paid to their needs. In some areas a register of all people aged 65 and upwards has been compiled in order that their true needs may be ascertained. In other areas only those old folk reported to be in need

of assistance have been registered. There is no doubt that some assessment of the number of old folk requiring assistance must be made in order that such services as there are, both voluntary and official, may be properly applied. The importance of chiropody and physiotherapy services in keeping old people mobile and able to look after themselves has been increasingly stressed, and the numerous items of help which can be given by voluntary bodies ranging from simple visitation, which means so much, to "Meals on Wheels" and including help with the drawing of library books and pensions and help in keeping ophthalmological and dental appointments are of great importance.

Hospitals.

There are three hospitals in the area :—

- (1) **Axminster** : Accommodation is as follows :—
15 beds for general medical and surgical cases including one private and one amenity bed.
- (2) **Honiton** : Accommodation is as follows :—
153 beds in all. 104 for chronic sick, 26 welfare, 7 maternity and 16 acute medical and minor surgical beds.
- (3) **Ottery St. Mary** : Accommodation is as follows :—
23 beds in all. 19 general medical and minor surgical and 4 for chronic sick.

Cases of Infectious Disease from the area go to Whipton Isolation Hospital. The Resident Physician and his staff have been most helpful at all times.

Laboratory Facilities.

Co-operation between the Public Health Laboratory service in Exeter and the Public Health Department has been close.

Child Welfare Clinics.

Child Welfare Clinics are held at Axminster, Millwey Rise, Colyton, Honiton, Seaton and Ottery St. Mary. The number of sessions held and the attendances were as follows :—

Axminster

Number of sessions held—20.

Total number of attendances (babies)—93.

Total number of attendances (toddlers)—96.

Millwey Rise, Axminster

Number of sessions held—24.

Total number of attendances (babies)—179.

Total number of attendances (toddlers)—139.

Colyton

Number of sessions held—42.

Total number of attendances (babies)—225.

Total number of attendances (toddlers)—159.

Honiton

Number of sessions held—24.

Total number of attendances (babies)—194.

Total number of attendances (toddlers)—288.

Seaton

Number of sessions held—24.

Total number of attendances (babies)—188.

Total number of attendances (toddlers)—129.

Ottery St. Mary

Number of sessions held—24.

Total number of attendances (babies)—310.

Total number of attendances (toddlers)—376.

Sewage Disposal.

All areas are tackling sewage disposal problems seriously, the main works under consideration being those in Axminster Rural District and Seaton. The necessity for a new scheme at Seaton comes more to public notice as beach pollution has occurred and is occurring.

Water Supplies.

The steady advance of the East Devon Water Board has eliminated many doubtful water supplies. During the year, the following supplies were given up and replaced by mains water : Branscombe, Luppitt, Broadhembury, Salcombe Regis, Monkton, Rawridge and Membury. All these supplies were suspect, Rawridge being particularly bad, and some were also deficient in quantity. During the year, of 691 samples taken by the Board from their supplies, only 17 were not up to standard. The quantity of water supplied by the Board increased from 1.25 million gallons of water per day in March, 1959, to 1.3 million gallons in March, 1960. The output in mid-summer was 1.6 million~~x~~ gallons per day.

A considerable number of queries and complaints regarding water supplies in the five districts were dealt with during the year. Some referred to wells, some to impurities resulting from the use of piping and containers unsuited to the particular water involved, and some related to the suitability for domestic consumption of farm water supplies. The control of the purity of water supplies became simplified at the end of the year through my appointment as Medical Officer to the East Devon Water Board.

Outworkers.

Under the provisions relating to Outworkers in the Factories Act of 1937, it is necessary for Councils in whose areas there are factories or other establishments employing outworkers to inform the Medical Officer of Health of the district where the outworkers live of the fact of their employment.

Lists of persons so employed quickly become out of date, nor is the type of employment always very clear. During the year under review, the list for this area has been brought up to date, and the type of employment clarified in each case.

Mass Radiography Service.

The Mass Radiography Service examined 307 people during the year. Of these only 1 was found to have tuberculosis. A number of other chest conditions were also discovered.

Camping and Caravanning.

East Devon does not contain the large camping and caravanning sites present in other areas of the county. There is a considerable amount of camping and caravanning on permanent sites along the coastal strip, but it does not appear likely that the number of such sites actually on the coast can increase. At the height of the season there is an overflow from certain sites into adjoining fields but where this overflow is from a well-equipped site the ablution and toilet facilities are available to all, so that conditions do not reach the level they are likely to reach where there is indiscriminate camping unassociated with any established site. It appears certain that camping and caravanning will increase and, in my view, it would appear to be advisable to have licensed sites strategically placed to draw in campers and caravanners who would otherwise spread over a wide area where they would be without water, ablution and toilet facilities to the detriment of the area.

R. C. MacLeod, Medical Officer of Health.

AXMINSTER RURAL DISTRICT

Area	...	...	...	...	52,135 acres
Population	...	...	...	...	14,080
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£167,795
Penny Rate produces	...	...	...	...	£675
No. of Parishes	...	...	...	...	15
General Rate levied	...	...	...	...	19/2 $\frac{1}{4}$ d.

Deaths

1958—(100 males, 80 females)	...	...	...	...	180
1959—(91 males, 75 females)	...	...	...	...	166

Live Births

1958—(73 males, 70 females)	...	...	...	...	143
4 illegitimate births were registered and are included in the above total of 143.					
Live birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 10.1.					
Illegitimate live birth per cent of total live births, 2.9.					
1959—(102 males, 68 females)	...	...	...	...	170
4 illegitimate births were registered and are included in the above total of 170.					
Live birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 12.07.					
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births, 2.3.					

Still Births

1958—(3 stillbirths were registered—0 illegitimate)	...	...	...	...	3
Total live and stillbirths	...	...	...	...	146
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births, 10.3.					
1959—(2 still births were registered—0 illegitimate)	...	...	...	...	2
Total live and stillbirths	...	...	...	...	172
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births, 12.1.					

Deaths of Infants under 1 year

1958—(6 deaths were registered—1 illegitimate)	...	...	...	...	6
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births, 42.					
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 legitimate live births, 36.					
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 illegitimate live births, 250.					
1959—(1 death was registered—0 illegitimate)	...	...	...	...	1
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births, 5.9.					
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 legitimate live births, 6.02.					
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 illegitimate live births, 0.					

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age

1958—(5 deaths were registered—1 illegitimate) ...	5
Neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births, 35.	
Maternal deaths, nil.	
1959—(0 death was registered—0 illegitimate) ...	0
Neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births, Nil.	
Maternal deaths, Nil.	

Deaths of Infants under 1 week of age

1959—(0 death was registered—0 illegitimate) ...	0
Early neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births, Nil.	
Peri-natal mortality rate, 11.6.	

Infectious Disease

The following cases of Infectious Disease were notified in 1959 :—

	1958	1959
Measles	512	103
Pneumonia	8	15
Whooping Cough	34	3
Scarlet Fever	9	4
Erysipelas	1	0
Typhoid	0	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	0
Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	1	0
Poliomyelitis (Non-paralytic)	1	0
Dysentery	2	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	0	1
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	2	5
Tuberculosis (Non-respiratory)	2	2
Encephalitis	1	0
	<hr/> 574	<hr/> 135

Births.

These numbered 170 as against 143 in 1958.

Deaths.

The deaths registered were 166 as compared with 180 in 1958. This is about the average for the area, and calls for no comment. Deaths of infants under 1 year were one compared with six in the previous year. The chief causes of death were :—

	1958	1959
Tuberculosis (Non-respiratory)	1	0
Other infective and parasitic diseases	0	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	4	8
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	9	8
Malignant neoplasm, breast	6	2
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	1	0
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	16	14
Vascular lesions of nervous system	31	34
Coronary disease, angina	31	29
Hypertension with heart disease	7	1
Other heart disease	22	18
Other circulatory disease	4	6
Influenza	1	5
Pneumonia	11	4
Bronchitis	4	5
Other diseases of respiratory system	2	6
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	0	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	2
Nephritis and nephrosis	4	2
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	0
Congenital malformations	3	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	10	15
Motor accidents	2	0
All other accidents	3	2
Suicide	5	2
Homicide and operations of war	1	0
	<hr/> 180	<hr/> 166

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Water Supplies.

Continued periodical examination and sampling of the three main private water undertakings in the district have been made approximately every two months and their general classification is as follows :—

	Class
Axmouth (Stedcombe Estate)	1
Colyton (Feoffees)	1
Combpyne (Good's supply)	1

The East Devon Water Board continue to improve the water supplies to outlying districts, especially in the northern area, including Membury, Stockland and Chardstock.

During the summer months unsatisfactory results were obtained from water samples taken from a section of the mains in Colyton, remedial works were put in hand by the Feoffees and no further trouble was experienced.

Several other miscellaneous water samples have been taken to support public health investigations including a detailed chemical analysis in connection with suspected plumbo-solvency.

Sewerage.

Of the fifteen parishes considered, nine have works covering the main parts of each parish. Further schemes are being prepared which will then give coverage to most parts of the district. Existing works are also to be extended and enlarged consequent on increased development in the area.

Meat and Other Foods.

The two slaughterhouses in the district situated at Axminster and Colyton continued to operate during the year.

Although no difficulty was experienced, it was realised that considerable alterations would be necessary to each of the premises in order to bring them up to the standard required by the new legislation. Preliminary surveys were made and informal discussions held with the owners with a view to reaching agreement on the proposals to be submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

	Cattle	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Number inspected	243	2	981	187
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis	—	—	—	—
Whole carcases condemned ...	—	—	2	—
Carcases of which some part was condemned	40	—	12	—
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticercosis ...	16.5%	—	1.4%	—
Tuberculosis only				
Whole carcases condemned ...	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part was condemned	—	—	—	3
Percentage of number affected with tuberculosis	—	—	—	1.6%
Cysticercosis	—	—	—	—

Also during the year the following food was condemned :—
 Tinned Meat 58lb. 13oz.; Cooked Meat 66lb.; Fresh Meat 242lb.;
 Tinned Fruit 13lb.; Fish 4 stone.

Food and Drugs Act.

1. Number of Food Premises—

Type	No. in Area	No. inspected
(a) Grocers and Fruiterers ...	45	11
(b) Butchers ...	10	4
(c) Bakers ...	7	4
(d) Fishmongers ...	5	3
(e) Confectioners ...	8	2
(f) Restaurants ...	15	7

2. Number of Premises registered under Section 16—

(a) Manufacture of Sausages ...	11	4
(b) Sale of Ice-Cream only (pre-packed)	68	27
(c) Fish Frying ...	4	1

3. It has not been possible to form any Food Guild in the area.

4. Disposal of Condemned Foods—

- (a) Tinned Food—by incineration.
- (b) Meat—by incineration.

5. No special examinations of consignments were necessary.

6. No action has been necessary with regard to ice-cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) regulations, as no ice-cream is manufactured in the district.

Food Poisoning.

There were no cases of food poisoning during the year.

Camping.

The three main sites at Beer, Colyford and Shute, were regularly inspected particularly during the holiday periods. In each case they were found to be well controlled and reasonably maintained.

It was observed that during the summer the unusually good weather encouraged a greater number of tented campers to seek "overflow accommodation" for short periods. These visitors were generally able to pitch their tents adjoining established sites and use the sanitary accommodation and water supplies available.

Consideration was given to the Model Standards drawn up by the Public Health Inspectors' Association (Devon Branch) and the Council agreed to adopt them where appropriate to camping in the rural district.

Refuse Collection and Disposal.

A regular collection was maintained throughout the year with weekly and fortnightly collections in the more populated parishes and a monthly collection in outlying rural districts. Detailed consideration was given to the service and by the end of the year a revised scheme virtually to double the frequency of collection was approved by the Council.

Once again attention must be drawn to the urgent need for further dumping facilities ; practically all refuse collected is being hauled to Beer and hardly any use is made of Colyton.

The national anti-litter campaign has naturally made an appreciable difference to the volume of material to be collected. Further litter receptacles were obtained and distributed throughout the district especially along main roads and on parking spaces. These are normally emptied during the course of regular journeys, but at peak periods it was found difficult to cope with the demand. Litter collection is now steadily increasing and must inevitably cause a rise in refuse collection costs.

Rodent Control.

The part-time rodent operator continues to cover the district with periodical inspections and treatments where necessary.

During the year the following premises were inspected under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949—

Local Authority	...	...	...	...	88
Dwelling Houses (including Council houses)	...				948
All other (including business premises)	...				209
Agricultural	...	...	...	...	270

Test baiting and half-yearly maintenance treatments were carried out to the Council's sewerage systems at Axminster, Axmouth, Beer, Colyton, Colyford and Stockland.

There were no major infestations treated during the year.

Petroleum Acts.

A great deal of time was spent by the Department on the implementation of the Petroleum Acts and associated regulations.

Following the drafting of a new Code of Practice applicable to petroleum installations, consultations took place with the petroleum companies, the fire authorities and other bodies. In order to obtain uniformity throughout the area, meetings were held with the Petroleum Inspectors in neighbouring authorities and the Council accepted the revised Model Code of Practice and storage regulations printed and distributed in booklet form.

Inspections were made of all licensed premises in the district and, with the co-operation of the petroleum companies, ullage testing was carried out to some 61 existing tanks more than 20 years old. In the latter part of the year attention was also paid to associated electrical equipment and arrangements were made for generally testing and fire-proofing.

It will be appreciated that, as each tank test requires the installation to be sealed for at least 24 hours and the use of petroleum tankers and company fitters, it was necessary to spend several days at a time on this work alone. Further, as the periodic testing of installations is a pre-requisite of licensing, this work will continue to absorb a proportion of the time of the Department.

Housing.

During the year under review the Department continued its responsibility for the maintenance and supervision of the 1,037 dwellings and other properties administered by the Council.

Requests for various repairs increased and some 3,000 orders to the value of £10,000 of building works were issued to various contractors. In most cases this entailed frequent inspections and visits to estates, supervision of work and the verification of submitted accounts.

Following detailed surveys and the preparation of specifications and plans, a beginning was made on the programme of modernisation of pre-war houses. In each case the dwellings have been provided with complete electrical wiring, hot water system, modern cooking appliance, gas service and internal access to the W.C. Where necessary, drainage facilities have been made available. Before the end of the year Ministerial approval was given to the first scheme and work commenced in Axminster.

The external painting of 150 houses was carried out by contractors and a great deal of time was spent on organising estate maintenance such as grass cutting, hedging and ditching.

The re-surfacing of footpaths and access roads was carried out on various estates, while at Foxhill, Axminster, bulldozing and levelling was done prior to the provision of new access paths to the houses and the fencing of the new playing-fields.

The converted dwellings at Millwey Rise, Axminster, continued to present difficulties due to the deterioration in structure and fittings. Endeavours were made to maintain them in weather-proof condition by the external application of bituminous compounds and temporary repairs were effected on the cooking ranges and coppers.

Detailed plans and specifications were prepared for the improvement and modernisation of old cottage properties acquired by the Council in Axminster and Colyton. In each case Ministry approval was received and works executed to provide a modern standard of two-bedroom dwelling.

A greater number of tenancy changes and transfers in Council dwellings took place during the year and additional work was involved in carrying out redecoration of dwellings and associated inspections.

Rent Act, 1957.

No fresh applications under the provisions of the Act were made during the year.

Housing Acts, 1957.

1.	Total number of dwelling-houses demolished	...	11
2.	Total number of dwelling-houses closed	... ..	3
3. (a)	Total number of houses rendered fit by formal notice		2
(b)	Total number of houses rendered fit by informal notice		2

Factories Act, 1937.

Premises	No. on Register	No. of Inspections	No. of Notices
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are enforced by the Local Authority	7	5	—
Factories not included in above in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	67	15	—
Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority ...	—	—	—
Total ...	74	20	—

Sections 110 and 111 Outworkers

Nature of Work	No. of out-workers in August list required by Section 110 (1) (c)	Section 110			Section 111	
		No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Wearing apparel (Making)	3	—	—	—	—	—
Nets, other than wire nets	2	—	—	—	—	—
Brush making	2	—	—	—	—	—

General Inspections

	No. of Inspections
Disinfection following infectious diseases	1
Water Supplies (private and statutory undertakings) ...	29
Inspection of drains	18
Condemned Foods. visits and re-visits	27
Petroleum Inspections	208
Public Health Act, Section 269 (Caravans)	32
Inspections—Public Health Act, 1936 (Section 91 etc.) ...	28
Rodent Inspections (by Public Health Inspectors) ...	8
Miscellaneous (Explosives Act, etc.)	19

L. H. White, Public Health Inspector.

HONITON BOROUGH

Area	...	...	...	3,125 acres
Population	...	...	...	3,930
Rateable Value	...	...	...	£65,179
Penny Rate produces	...	...	...	£262
General Rate levied	...	...	...	19/0d.

Deaths

Number of deaths registered from all causes :—

1958—(27 males, 33 females)	...	...	...	60
1959—(32 males, 53 females)	...	...	...	85

Live Births

Number of Live Births registered :—

1958—(34 males, 26 females)	...	...	...	60
3 illegitimate births were registered and are included in the above total of 60.				

Live birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 13.3.

Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births, 5.

1959—(32 males, 23 females)	...	...	...	55
4 illegitimate births were registered and are included in the above total of 55.				

Live birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 13.9.

Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births, 7.3.

Still Births

1958—2 still births were registered (0 illegitimate)	...	...	...	2
Total live and still births	...	...	...	62
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births, 13.8.				

1959—0 still birth was registered	...	...	...	0
Total live and still births	...	...	...	55
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births, 13.9.				

Deaths of Infants under 1 year

1958—0 death was registered	...	...	...	0
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births, Nil.				

1959—1 death was registered (1 illegitimate)	...	...	...	1
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births, 18.2.				
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 legitimate live births, 0.				
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 illegitimate live births, 250.				

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age

1958—0 death was registered	...	...	...	0
Neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births, Nil.				
Maternal deaths, Nil.				

1959—1 death was registered (1 illegitimate)	...	...	...	1
Neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births, 18.2.				
Maternal deaths, Nil.				

Deaths of Infants under 1 week of age

1959—1 death was registered (1 illegitimate) 1
 Early neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births, 18.2.
 Peri-natal mortality rate, 18.2.

Infectious Disease

The following cases of Infectious Disease were notified during 1959 :—

	1958	1959
Scarlet Fever	1	0
Whooping Cough	15	21
Measles	14	179
Erysipelas	1	1
Pneumonia	14	32
Respiratory Tuberculosis	2	0
Non-respiratory Tuberculosis	0	0
	<hr/> 47	<hr/> 233

Infectious Disease.

As will be noted from the Chart, the number of cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year totalled 233 as against 47 in 1958. This is due to the increase in Measles. The number of cases of respiratory tuberculosis, the most serious disease notified, dropped to nil from the previous year's total of two. There was also an increase in the number of cases of pneumonia. The health record taken as a whole was thus very good.

Bathing Facilities.

The Allhallows pool continues to be used by a limited number of schoolchildren and by the Swimming Club. It cannot be pretended that hand chlorination is a satisfactory method of dealing with swimming-pools, and it is to be hoped that negotiations which are understood to be going on for the improvement of swimming facilities in the Borough may prove successful.

Death Rate.

The number of deaths occurring was 85 as compared with 60 in 1958. This is higher than last year but calls for no comment.

Birth Rate.

The number of births registered was 55 as compared with 60 in 1958.

Lung Cancer.

Two deaths occurred from this disease, exactly the same number as in 1958.

The chief causes of death were :—

	1958	1959
Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	0
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	0	3
Malignant neoplasm, lung	2	2
Malignant neoplasm, breast	0	4
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	8	2
Leukaemia	1	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	14	27
Other heart disease	8	10
Other circulatory disease	6	3
Pneumonia	2	6
Bronchitis	2	1
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	0	4
Coronary disease, angina	11	14
Hypertension with heart disease	2	0
All other accidents	2	2
Diabetes	0	2
Influenza	0	1
Suicide	0	1
	<hr/> 60	<hr/> 85

Annual Report of the Public Health Inspector for the Year 1959 Council Houses.

The Council continues its policy of expansion on new housing and the building of a further 40 houses on the Jerrard Estate is well in hand. It is hoped that the first of these houses will be ready for occupation at the end of June, 1960. When these houses are completed, Council Housing Accommodation will form approximately one-third of the available housing accommodation within the Borough.

The housing of old people continues to be considered and regular provision is now being made on each new Council Estate for a certain number of "Old People's Bungalows".

The Borough Housing Officer is now well established and is taking a very active part in the maintenance and administration of the Council's property and the welfare of tenants. Close liaison is maintained between the Public Health Department and the Housing Department in the matter of rehousing people from slum property and also in the general letting of Council Houses.

At the moment the number of occupied Council houses within the Borough is as follows :—

Permanent Pre-War Houses ...	137
Permanent Post-War Houses ...	204
Prefabricated Bungalows ...	12
	<hr/>
	353
	<hr/>

The number of people who are on the waiting list for Council housing accommodation has now reached almost 150.

Housing Act, 1957.

Section 16. Undertaking not to use premises for human habitation.

During the year the Council has accepted one undertaking not to use unfit premises for human habitation.

Section 17. One property has been closed during the year.

Section 9. Repair of Unfit Houses.

It was not found necessary to issue any repair notices under this section during this year.

Rent Act, 1957.

No applications for certificates of disrepair were received during the year.

Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958.

This Act is being operated extensively within the Borough with the result that many properties which would otherwise be dealt with as Unfit Premises under the Housing Act, 1957, are being repaired and improved and becoming satisfactory units of accommodation once more.

One Discretionary Grant and one Standard Grant have been paid this year amounting to £299, but a far greater number of applications is expected next year when the general public realise the full scope of the Act.

It is interesting to note that the trend of occupation of the older cottage type of property is changing from tenanted cottages to owner occupied. Whereas this type of property was occupied by families holding a tenancy under a landlord, the present trend is owner-occupied cottages, with the owner usually being a retired person who is willing to repair and maintain the property in good condition.

Water Supply.

An adequate supply of piped water is conveyed to all but a few isolated dwellings, the supplying authority being the East Devon Water Board.

It is interesting to note from an Annual Report made in the early eighteen hundreds that some very caustic comments were being passed on the then available supplies of water.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

The existing works are tending to become more and more overloaded especially in view of the recent building development in the area.

Several complaints have been received from the Devon River Board with regard to pollution of the River Otter, and the Council have now instructed their Consulting Engineers to proceed as

quickly as possible with the proposed improvements. The Engineers have indicated that they should be in a position to receive tenders for this work by December, 1960.

Refuse Collection and Disposal.

The existing system of refuse collection, although working well, will have to be expanded in the very near future due to the increase in the number of dwellings from which collections are made. It is intended to ask the Council to consider this matter during the next financial year.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

The Council utilise the services of a trained member of the outside staff for carrying out the requirements of this act. Regular treatments of the refuse tip and sewerage works have been made during the year and the following inspections and treatments have been carried out :—

Inspections		Local Authority Property and Council Houses		Dwelling Houses and Council Houses	Business Premises
819	...	...	4	793	22
Major Infestations	...	Nil	Nil	Nil	1
Minor Infestations	...	2	29		4

All the infestations were treated and satisfactory results were obtained.

Public Conveniences.

The two public conveniences in the town are being extensively used.

Factories Act, 1937.

There are 25 mechanical and 16 non-mechanical factories in the Borough. These have all been inspected and it was found necessary to serve two notices in respect of Sanitary Accommodation. These were both complied with. Close liaison is being maintained with H.M. Inspector of Factories, and we receive maximum co-operation from the owners of the factories in the area.

Sections 110 and 111 Outworkers

Nature of Work	No. of out-workers in August list required by Section 110 (1) (c)	Section 110		No. of instances of work in unwhole- some premises	Section 111	
		No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecu- tions for failure to supply lists		Notices served	Prose- cutions
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Wearing apparel (Making)	2	—	—	—	—	—
Nets, other than wire nets	5	—	—	—	—	—

Certificate of Means of Escape in Case of Fire.

The question of the Devon County Fire Service taking over these duties is now being considered.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

1. Number of Food Premises—

Type	No. in Area	No. Inspected
(a) Grocers and Fruiterers ...	16	12
(b) Butchers	7	5
(c) Bakers	3	3
(d) Fishmongers	1	1
(e) Confectioners	11	7
(f) Restaurants	10	10

2. (i) Number of Premises registered under Section 16 :

(a) Manufacture of Sausages ...	7
(b) Sale of Ice-Cream (Pre-packed)	30
(c) Fish Frying	2

(ii) Milk and Dairies Regulations :

There are six premises registered as dairies in the Borough and five registered distributors.

3. Inspection of Registered Premises :

(a) Manufacture of Sausages ...	7
(b) Sale of Ice-cream	24
(c) Fish Frying	2

4. No Food Guild was formed within the Borough during the year.

5. Disposal of Condemned Food :

- (a) Tinned Food—by incineration.
- (b) Meat—by incineration.

6. No special examinations of consignments were necessary.

7. Ice-cream : There are no premises registered in respect of the Ice-cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, as this method is not used within the Borough. One premises is registered to manufacture by the Cold Mix method.

Caravanning and Camping.

During the year one camping site has been licensed with the approval of the County Planning Department. The owner has provided and maintained all the necessary amenities.

Meat Inspection.

All the meat inspected was in good condition and of a remarkably high standard and it was not found necessary to condemn any whole carcasses.

R. B. Bailey, Public Health Inspector.

HONITON RURAL DISTRICT

Area	...	...	...	...	61,261 acres
Population	...	...	...	...	6,960
Number of Parishes	...	...	...	...	22
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£54,135
Penny Rate produces	...	...	...	...	£212
General Rate levied	...	...	...	...	16/10½d.

Infectious Disease

	1958	1959
Scarlet Fever	0	4
Whooping Cough	21	19
Measles	162	126
Pneumonia	17	32
Erysipelas	0	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	0
Poliomyelitis (Non-paralytic)	1	0
Food Poisoning	0	0
Respiratory Tuberculosis	1	1
Non-respiratory Tuberculosis	0	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	0
Encephalitis	0	1
	<hr/> 204	<hr/> 184

Deaths

Number of deaths registered from all causes :—

1958—(39 males, 25 females)	...	...	...	...	64
1959—(34 males, 36 females)	...	...	...	...	70

Live Births

1958—(58 males, 41 females)	99
-----------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

5 illegitimate births were registered and are included in the above total of 99.

Live birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 14.3.

Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births, 5.

1959—(69 males, 48 females)	117
-----------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

2 illegitimate births were registered and are included in the above total of 117.

Live birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 16.8.

Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births, 1.709.

Still Births

1958—(2 still births were registered)	...	...	...	2
Total live and still births	...	...	...	101
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births, 14.6.				
1959—(1 still birth was registered—0 illegitimate)	...	...	...	1
Total live and still births	...	...	...	118
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births, 16.9.				

Deaths of Infants under 1 year.

1958—(2 deaths were registered)	...	...	...	2
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births, 20.2.				
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 legitimate live births, 20.2.				
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 illegitimate live births, Nil.				
1959—(0 deaths were registered)	...	...	...	0
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births, Nil.				

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age

1958—(1 death was registered)	...	...	...	1
Neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births, 10.1.				
Maternal deaths, Nil.				
1959—(0 deaths were registered)	...	...	...	0
Neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births, Nil.				
Maternal deaths, Nil.				

Deaths of Infants under 1 week of age

1959—(0 deaths were registered)	...	...	...	0
Early neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births, Nil.				
Peri-natal mortality rate, 8.5.				

Births.

These show an increase, 117 as compared with 99 in 1958.

Deaths.

The number of deaths registered was 70 as compared with 64 in 1958.

The chief causes of death were :—

	1958	1959
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	3	3
Malignant neoplasm, lung	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	1	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	12	12
Vascular lesions of nervous system	4	11
Coronary disease, angina	10	13
Hypertension with heart disease	4	2
Other heart disease	5	11
Other circulatory disease	2	1
Other diseases of respiratory system	2	1
Pneumonia	4	0

	1958	1959
Bronchitis	5	1
Duodenal Ulcer	0	2
Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	5	6
Motor Accidents	1	2
Suicide	1	1
All other accidents	2	0
Congenital malformation	1	0
Influenza	0	1
	<hr/> 64	<hr/> 70

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Refuse Collection.

Since an arrangement was made with Sidmouth U.D.C. in 1958 for the disposal of refuse from the Rural District at Shepherds Hut tip under the control of Sidmouth U.D.C., it has been possible to improve the collection of household refuse by utilising the time previously spent on tip maintenance for refuse collection.

Fortnightly collections are now carried out in ten parishes as against monthly collections in the rest of the district; the ten parishes concerned being those with the greater populations and consequently the greater volume of refuse.

During the year, some two hundred and ninety-one loads were taken to Shepherds Hut, indicating over two thousand cubic yards of domestic refuse.

Informal action has resulted in the replacement of a number of unsatisfactory dustbins, and no statutory action has been called for.

Rodent Control.

Several complaints of rat infestation on private properties have been dealt with during the year, but no heavy infestations were found and no statutory action was necessary.

Test baiting was carried out in the various sewerage schemes but no "takes" were recorded. This work has increased enormously during the last few years due to the number of new village sewerage schemes completed.

Housing.

Although no houses were erected by the Council during the year, eighteen houses and bungalows were completed by private enterprise, the largest number in any year since the war.

The programme for the improvement of pre-war Council houses, under the control of the Housing Manager, proceeded during the year by the provision of bathrooms and drainage systems. Eighteen properties were reconditioned and brought up to modern standards with the help of improvement grants.

Undertakings not to re-let were accepted in respect of two

unfit houses. One unfit house, also the subject of an undertaking, was demolished and one was completely reconditioned subsequent to its purchase by a new owner.

Water Supplies.

Under the control of the East Devon Water Board, the water supply to the district has been most satisfactory. Various additional reservoirs and works have been completed during the year to improve the supply in Rural areas.

Sewage Disposal.

The Yarcombe scheme, commenced in 1958, was completed early in the new year and brought into operation. A number of service connections were carried out when the sewers were laid and work is proceeding on the remainder. A small disposal plant for the Yarcombe Council houses has been demolished and the houses connected to the new system.

The village scheme for Gittisham has also been completed and is in operation. Despite the fact that a considerable length of sewer in this scheme had to be laid through low-lying and marshy ground, the Contractors were helped by the exceptionally dry summer and no great difficulties were encountered. The Combe Estate is now going into the question of service connections for all the village properties.

During the year a scheme was prepared and submitted to the Ministry for the re-sewering of Sidmouth Junction and Feniton, including extensions and modifications to the existing works at Feniton.

Food and Drugs Act.

Work has commenced on the modernisation of an existing slaughterhouse in the area for use in the new year. It is not anticipated that the kill will be very extensive. The meat will be sold in a nearby town and not locally.

1. Number of Food Premises registered—23 General Stores.
2. Number of Premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955—23 and 1 dairy registered under the Milk and Dairy Regulations.
3. Number of Inspections of registered food premises—27.
4. It has not been possible to form any Food Guild within the area.
5. Method of disposal of condemned food—by incineration.
6. No special examinations of consignments were necessary.
7. Number of premises registered under the Ice-Cream Regulations—23.
8. No legal action was necessary under the Food Hygiene Regulations.

Factories Act, 1937.

Premises	No. on Register	No. of Inspections	No. of Notices
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are enforced by the Local Authority	18	19	—
Factories not included in above in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	22	20	—
Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	—	—	—
	—	—	—
Total ...	40	39	—

**Sections 110 and 111
Outworkers**

Nature of Work	No. of out-workers in August list required by Section 110 (1) (c)	Section 110		No. of instances of work in unwhole- some premises	Section 111	
		No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecu- tions for failure to supply lists		Notices served	Prose- cutions
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Wearing apparel (Making)	2	—	—	—	—	—
Nets, other than wire nets	1	—	—	—	—	—

F. J. Baxfield, Public Health Inspector.

OTTERY ST. MARY URBAN DISTRICT

Area	...	...	...	10,008 acres
Population	...	...	...	4,200
Rateable Value	...	...	...	£46,036
General Rate levied	...	...	...	18/8d.
Penny Rate produces	...	...	...	£189

Deaths

1958—(33 males, 34 females)	...	...	...	...	67
1959—(39 males, 37 females)	...	...	...	...	76

Live Births

1958—(29 males, 19 females)	...	...	...	...	48
0 illegitimate births were registered	...	...	...	...	0
Live birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 11.4.					
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births, Nil.					
1959—(25 males, 32 females)	...	...	...	...	57
4 illegitimate births were registered and are included in the above total of 57.					
Live birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 13.5.					
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births, 7.02.					

Still Births

1958—(1 was registered—0 illegitimate)	...	...	...	...	1
Total live and still births	...	...	...	...	49
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births, 11.7.					
1959—(None were registered)	...	...	...	...	0
Total live and still births	...	...	...	...	57
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births, 13.5.					

Deaths of Infants under 1 year

1958—(None were registered)	...	...	...	...	0
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births, Nil.					
1959—(5 were registered—0 illegitimate)	...	...	...	...	5
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births, 8.8.					
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 legitimate live births, 9.4.					
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 illegitimate live births, Nil.					

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age

1958—(None were registered)	...	...	...	...	0
Neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births, Nil.					
Maternal deaths, Nil.					
1959—(4 were registered—0 illegitimate)	...	...	...	...	4
Neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births, 7.02.					
Maternal deaths, 1.					

Deaths of Infants under 1 week of age

1959—(3 deaths were registered—0 illegitimate) ... 3

Early neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births, 5.3.

Peri-natal mortality rate, 52.6.

Infectious Disease

The following cases of Infectious Disease were notified during 1959 :—

	1958	1959
Scarlet Fever	0	7
Measles	52	12
Whooping Cough	14	11
Erysipelas	1	0
Poliomyelitis	0	0
Tuberculosis (respiratory)	6	0
Food Poisoning	4	0
Encephalitis	1	0
Pneumonia	0	3
Mumps Meningitis	0	1
	<hr/> 78	<hr/> 34

Deaths.

The number of deaths registered from all causes was 76 as compared with 67 in 1958. This slight rise calls for no comment. The causes of death were :—

	1958	1959
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	3	0
Malignant neoplasm, lung	2	2
Malignant neoplasm, breast	1	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	9	9
Leukaemia	1	0
Vascular lesions of nervous system	17	15
Coronary disease, angina	9	9
Hypertension with heart disease	0	0
Other heart disease	5	14
Other circulatory disease	6	5
Influenza	1	2
Pneumonia	3	0
Bronchitis	1	2
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	0
Nephritis	2	0
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	3	9
Motor Accidents	1	1
All other accidents	1	1
Suicide	0	1
Congenital malformations	0	1
Diabetes	0	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	0	1
Pregnancy, child birth, abortion	0	1
	<hr/> 67	<hr/> 76

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Water Supply.

As anticipated in last year's Annual Report, the part of the district known as West Hill and supplied by the Private Water Company belonging to Sir John Kennaway's Escot Estate is to come under the jurisdiction of the East Devon Water Board. Final agreement has now been reached and the transfer of the Undertaking is to take place during the early part of 1960. The supply of main water to the whole of the Urban District is now under the control of the East Devon Water Board, and further extensions to the main have been carried out during the year particularly in the West Hill area, and it is proposed to carry out further works as circumstances permit. The scheme for the sinking of the additional Bore Hole at Great Well, Ottery St. Mary, is now well in hand and test pumping at the site of the new Bore is to commence in the near future.

The quantity and Bacteriological quality of the main water produced by the existing two Bore Holes at Great Well remains satisfactory and all samples submitted for examination were reported as being of Class 1 standard.

In the previous report it was intimated that the water supply to the Council's Housing Estate at Tipton Vale was unsatisfactory. The supply obtained from a local bore hole adjacent to the Housing site has now been abandoned and all the houses are now connected to the main water supply of the East Devon Water Board.

Bacteriological Examination.

Seven samples of water were taken for Bacteriological Examination from the main supply of the East Devon Water Board. All were reported as being of Class 1 quality.

Six samples were taken from private well supplies, five were reported as being "equivalent in standard to a Class 1 piped supply", the sixth as being "within the normal range for satisfactory shallow wells."

Sewage Disposal.

The main sewage disposal works at St. Saviours, which treats the sewage from the town area, worked satisfactorily during the year, as also did the ejectors dealing with foul drainage from The King's Grammar School.

M. W. Summers, Esq., M.I.C.E., from the Engineering Inspectorate of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government,

carried out an Informal Enquiry in October, on the proposed new Sewage Scheme for the Town area. The Scheme, which includes the re-laying (and extension of sewer) together with rising main and pumping plant, has now been approved in principle by the Ministry. Messrs. Lemon and Blizard, Consulting Engineers to the Council, have been instructed to prepare all the necessary details and Contract documents to enable the work to proceed as soon as possible.

A short section of new sewer, serving the new Council houses on the Winters Lane Estate, has been laid and connected to the main sewage system, also a sewer to a private housing estate which will ultimately provide 30—40 dwellings was connected to the Town Sewage Disposal Works.

During the year the Council's Consulting Engineers completed plans and contract documents for the Tipton St. John Sewage Scheme, and the contractor is expected to commence operations during the early part of 1960. This scheme includes the laying of sewers, pumping plant and the construction of a new Sewage Disposal Works. Apart from a small Sewage Disposal Plant serving the Council's Housing Estate, the village of Tipton St. John has no main drainage and the new scheme, when completed, will effect a very definite improvement in this part of the district. The provision of main water supply and drainage to the majority of the houses in the village will no doubt be an established fact within the foreseeable future.

Due to an unsatisfactory effluent being discharged from the Sewage Disposal Plant serving the twelve Council Houses at Taleford which was causing a nuisance in an open water course, improvements were carried out incorporating Stage 1 of work recommended by the Council's Consulting Engineers. A decided improvement in the effluent discharged has been noted.

Refuse Disposal.

The collection and disposal of household and trade refuse has been satisfactorily carried out. The weekly collection of refuse in the town area and the fortnightly collection in the rural part of the district has been steadily maintained during the year.

The disused clay pits, situated adjacent to the Brickworks on the Chineway Road and acquired by the Council some years ago, are still being used satisfactorily for the disposal of the refuse, carried out by controlled tipping.

Inspection of Factories and Workshops (Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948)

	No. on Register	No. of Inspections	No. of Notices
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are enforced by the Local Authority	20	44	—
Factories not included in above in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	19	68	—
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority— Building Sites, etc.	17	34	—
	—	—	
Totals ...	56	146	

Defects found remedied :—

Unsuitable or Defective Sanitary Conveniences ...	2
Absence of proper Sanitary Conveniences ...	1
The provision of Sanitary Convenience to a small garage (factory) was still the subject of negotiation at the end of the year.	
There are no outworkers in the district.	

Housing.

Number of new Dwellings erected :—

By Local Authority	Nil
By other Bodies or Persons	16
	—
Total	16

Number 1 of a pair of semi-derelict cottages at St. Saviours was improved and rendered fit for human habitation and it is proposed to carry out similar improvement to the second cottage during 1960.

Slum Clearance.

Further representations and recommendations were submitted to the Council regarding the proposed action to be taken in respect of unfit dwellings situated within the built-up area of this town. Fifteen houses, together with outbuildings, were included for consideration in these Clearance Areas, namely Nos. 4, 6 and 7. These dwellings will, of course, be formally dealt with when the Council are in a position to offer alternative housing accommodation to the occupiers of the houses to be subsequently demolished.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

Rodent Control.

Two trained employees of the Council were engaged part-time on routine inspections throughout the district. No serious or major infestations were located. Minor infestations, including the sewers in the town area and at the Council's refuse tip, received the appropriate treatment and the results in all cases were satisfactory.

Food and Drugs Acts, 1938—1955

Meat Inspection

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

					Cattle	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	...	...	...		416	68	1,355	895
Number inspected	...	...	...		402	67	1,298	868

All diseases except

Tuberculosis and Cysticerci

Whole carcases condemned	...		—		2	—	—
Carcases of which some part of organ was condemned	...	...	72		3	400	49
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci	...	...	17.91%		7.4%	30.83%	5.64%

Tuberculosis only

Whole carcases condemned	...		—		—	—	—
Carcases of which some part of organ was condemned	...	...	—		—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	...	...	—		—	—	—

Cysticercosis Nil

Condemnations.

							lbs. weight
Beef (including Offal)	...	...	...	...	...	...	774
Veal	...	...	...	...	...	...	125
Mutton and Lamb	...	...	...	...	...	...	720
Pork	...	...	...	...	...	...	360
Tinned Meats	...	...	...	...	...	...	93½
Fish	...	...	...	...	...	...	84
Bacon	...	...	...	...	...	...	11½
Miscellaneous (tinned fruits, etc.)	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Total							2,168lbs.

Slaughterhouses.

The three small licensed Slaughterhouses situated in the town area were inspected and a report submitted to the Council giving details of work to be carried out and equipment to be provided to raise the standard of each of the premises to comply with the Slaughterhouses (Hygiene) Regulations, 1958 and the Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations, 1958. The Council decided to approve in principle the renewal of the three Slaughterhouse Licenses upon an undertaking being given by the respective occupiers that they would improve their premises and equipment up to the standard required.

Food Preparing Establishments.

Routine inspections were made to all the food stores, butchers' shops and catering establishments within the district. The conditions of the premises and the cleanliness of the personnel engaged in the handling of food were generally satisfactory.

The animals slaughtered and the meat presented for sale remained of consistently high quality—as usual almost 100% meat inspection was maintained at the three licensed slaughterhouses.

Cancer Investigation.

The results of the soil sampling taken in the investigation of stomach cancer as referred to in the previous report, have proved rather inconclusive. It is thought that more precise and detailed sampling from the selected house gardens will have to be carried out before satisfactory statistical information can be determined.

C. W. Glover, Public Health Inspector.

SEATON URBAN DISTRICT

Area	...	...	...	...	1,178 acres
Population	...	...	...	...	2,960
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£61,553
Penny Rate produces	...	...	...	...	£248
General Rate levied	...	...	...	...	£1

Deaths

1958—(30 males, 41 females)	...	...	...	...	71
1959—(36 males, 32 females)	...	...	...	...	68

Live Births

1958—(15 males, 15 females)	...	...	...	...	30
2 illegitimate births were registered and are included in the above total of 30.					
Live birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 10.16.					
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births, 6.66.					
1959—(16 males, 16 females)	...	...	...	...	32
1 illegitimate birth was registered and is included in the above total of 32.					
Live birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 10.8.					
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births, 3.1.					

Still Births

1958—(1 was registered—0 illegitimate)	...	...	...	...	1
Total live and still births	...	...	...	...	31
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births, 10.5.					
1959—(None were registered)	...	...	...	...	0
Total live and still births	...	...	...	...	32
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births, 10.8.					

Deaths of Infants under 1 year

1958—(None were registered)	...	...	...	...	0
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births, Nil.					
1959—(None were registered)	...	...	...	...	0
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births, Nil.					

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age

1958—(None were registered)	...	...	...	...	0
Neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births, Nil.					
Maternal deaths, Nil.					
1959—(None were registered)	...	...	...	...	0
Neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births, Nil.					
Maternal deaths, Nil.					

Deaths of Infants under 1 week of age

1959—(None were registered)	...	...	...	...	0
Early neo-natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births, Nil.					
Peri-natal mortality rate, Nil.					

Infectious Disease

The following cases were notified during the year :—

	1958	1959
Tuberculosis (respiratory)	2	0
Tuberculosis (non-respiratory)	1	0
Scarlet Fever	0	3
Whooping Cough	26	0
Measles	160	16
Pneumonia	3	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	0
	<hr/> 193	<hr/> 19

Deaths.

The number of deaths registered from all causes was 68 as compared with 71 in 1958.

The causes of death were :—

	1958	1959
Tuberculosis (respiratory)	1	0
Other tubercular diseases	1	0
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	4
Malignant neoplasm, bronchus, lung	1	2
Malignant neoplasm, breast	1	2
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	3	6
Diabetes	1	0
Vascular lesions of nervous system	10	14
Coronary disease, angina	15	13
Hypertension with heart disease	3	0
Other heart disease	15	12
Other circulatory disease	6	2
Other diseases of respiratory system	2	0
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	0	2
Pneumonia	1	0
Bronchitis	1	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	0	0
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	4	3
Motor Accidents	0	1
Other Accidents	3	1
Suicide	1	2
Leukaemia	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	0	1
Influenza	0	1
	<hr/> 71	<hr/> 68

Annual Report of the Public Health Inspector for the Year 1959

The following visits and re-visits either by myself or my Assistant have been made during the year :—

Public Health—General	...	...	...	...	...	115
Infectious disease	...	...	...	...	...	1
Camping	...	...	...	...	...	17
Complaints Council Houses	...	...	...	...	...	302
Complaints Others	...	...	...	...	...	43
Rodent Control	...	...	...	...	...	22
Water Supply, mains and works and inspections for waste	...	...	...	...	...	106
Sewers and sewage disposal	...	...	...	...	...	54
Public Conveniences	...	...	...	...	...	25
Shops Acts	...	...	...	...	...	20
Housing :						
Grants and general	...	...	...	...	...	38
Council Houses and Sites	...	...	...	...	...	84
Rent Acts	...	...	...	...	...	1
Re : Housing applicants	...	...	...	...	...	1
Food and Drugs :						
Byelaws and Regulations	...	...	...	...	...	14
Milk and Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	3
Meat and Food	...	...	...	...	...	7
Building Byelaws and Planning :						
Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	212
Drains and private sewers tested	...	...	...	...	...	63
General :						
Meteorological readings	...	...	...	...	...	365
Highways and Public Lighting	...	...	...	...	...	201
Pleasure Grounds Supervision	...	...	...	...	...	157
Petroleum Regulations	...	...	...	...	...	64
Factories	...	...	...	...	...	15
Interviews	...	...	...	...	...	501
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	35
						<hr/> 2,466

Housing.

During the year 10 “Unity” type houses were commenced in Homer Lane for the Council. Thirty-three privately owned dwellings were built and finished and six properties were converted into fourteen flats.

Housing Acts.

One house has been made fit and the undertaking not to re-let has been cancelled. The case of one unfit house is still under consideration.

One house was declared unfit during the year and an undertaking not to re-let was accepted. The house is to be used as a store.

One certificate of disrepair was applied for but was not granted.

Improvement Grants.

The improvements outstanding in my last report were finished in 1959. Four discretionary and one standard grant were agreed to.

Water Supply.

The quality of the water continues to be excellent and no complaints were received. The summer of 1959 was exceptionally fine. Appeals had to be made to domestic consumers not to waste water, and the use of water for watering private gardens and washing private cars was prohibited for three months but there was never any serious shortage of water for essential needs. A 3in. water main was laid to supply Rosedale Terrace, Colyford Road, and also a 3in. main to the Homer Lane Housing Site.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

The same conditions exist as in my last report. During the year the Eastern outfall collapsed and the Council at the close of the year was actively considering a new outfall and a comminutor.

Food Shops and Dairies.

Inspections under the Food Hygiene Regulations were made whenever possible.

Refuse Collection.

The amount of refuse increases every year and we now find it necessary to have a third collector during the visiting season.

Public Health and Food and Drugs Acts.

Nine Notices were served and complied with. Many problems under this heading are dealt with verbally.

Rodents.

Minor infestations in 23 properties were disposed of by our Rodent Operator. The treatment of rats in sewers continues at six monthly intervals, usually under the supervision of the Divisional Pest Officer.

Slaughterhouses.

There has been no slaughtering of animals for human consumption during the year. It would appear that there is no need for the one slaughterhouse in Seaton.

Factories Act, 1937.

Premises	No. on Register	No. of Inspections	No. of Notices
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are enforced by the Local Authority	2	2	—
Factories not included in above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	26	13	—
Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	18	—	—
	—	—	—
Total ...	46	15	—

Sections 110 and 111

Outworkers

Nature of Work	No. of out-workers in August list required by Section 110 (1) (c)	Section 110		No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Section 111	
		No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists		Notices served	Prosecutions
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Wearing apparel (Making)	2	—	—	—	—	—
Brush making	1	—	—	—	—	—

General.

I have to record that I attended the Annual Conference of the Royal Society of Health at Harrogate in April, 1959.

As mine is a joint appointment, my report includes my activities as a Public Health Officer and some of the more important aspects of that of a Surveyor.

P. R. Bradley, Public Health Inspector.

